

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for provisioning users with resources, the method comprising the
2 steps of:

3 establishing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user roles;

4 defining a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected
5 attributes, organizational information, and user roles;

6 receiving attribute information, organizational information, and user role
7 information for a particular user, resource, or database;

8 determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to the user
9 based on the received user role information, organizational information, and attribute
10 information; and

11 provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource
12 provisioning policies.

1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, the user roles comprising a yes value and a no
2 value, the attributes comprising multiple non-binary values.

1 3. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of reconciling
2 resources by comparing resources currently provisioned to the user with a list of resources that
3 should be provisioned to the user based on the applicable resource access policies, and
4 identifying any differences.

1 4. A method as recited in claim 3, further including the step provisioning or de-
2 provisioning resources to the user based on the differences detected by reconciliation.

1 5. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of de-provisioning the
2 user with some or all of the user's allocated resources if the user is terminated, suspended, or
3 placed on leave.

1 6. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the steps of:
2 receiving timing information related to the timing of the provisioning or
3 resources; and
4 provisioning the user with resources at a certain time specified by the timing
5 information.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 2, the attributes comprising user attributes and
2 resource attributes.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of provisioning the
2 user with "hard" resources and "soft" resources.

1 9. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of provisioning the
2 user with resource bundles.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of defining a plurality
2 of resource provisioning policies utilizing decision statements that allow irrelevant steps to be
3 bypassed.

1 11. A method as recited in claim 2, the step of provisioning the user with resources
2 comprising communicating requests for the resources to applications or persons.

12. A system for provisioning users with resources, the system comprising:
memory for storing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user roles, a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected attributes, organizational information, and user roles, and attribute information and user role information for a particular user or resource; and
one or more processors coupled to the memory and an organizational network, the processors programmed for
determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to a particular user based on the stored user role information, organizational information, and attribute information, and
provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource provisioning policies.

13. A system as recited in claim 12, the user roles having a yes value and a no value, the attributes comprising multiple non-binary values.

14. A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further programmed for reconciling resources by comparing resources currently provisioned to the user with a list of resources that should be provisioned to the user based on the applicable resource provisioning policies, and identifying any differences.

15. A system as recited in claim 14, the one or more processors further programmed for provisioning or de-provisioning resources to the user based on the differences detected by reconciliation.

16. A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further programmed for de-provisioning the user with some or all of the user's allocated resources if the user is terminated, suspended, or placed on leave.

1 17. A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further
2 programmed for:
3 receiving timing information related to the timing of the provisioning or
4 resources; and
5 provisioning the user with resources at a certain time specified by the timing
6 information.

1 18. A system as recited in claim 13, the attributes comprising user attributes and
2 resource attributes.

1 19. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user may be provisioned with
2 "hard" resources and "soft" resources.

1 20. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user is provisioned with resource
2 bundles.

1 21. A system as recited in claim 13, the plurality of resource provisioning policies
2 utilizing decision statements that allow irrelevant steps to be bypassed.